

Claims

1. A method of reading messages which are sent over a data bus in a motor vehicle between electronic units, comprising:
 - at least one communications network based on at least one data bus to which several electronic units are connected by means of a bus interface,
 - at least one data interface for connecting the communications network with an external data processing unit,
 - at least one cyclically overwritable, volatile storing means for the storing of messages which were sent in the communications network,
 - at least one monitoring unit having an executable program which examines the messages stored in the volatile storing means for selected, parameterizable attributes,
 - at least one definable trigger event, whose occurrence is monitored by the executable program, and upon whose occurrence the cyclical overwriting of the volatile storing means is stopped for at least as long until the data content of the volatile storing means is transferred to a second, non-volatile storing means.
2. The method as defined in claim 1, wherein the definable trigger event may be read or exchanged over the data interface of the communications network.

3. The method as defined in claim 1 or 2,
wherein
the parameterizable attributes may be read or
exchanged over the data interface of the
communications network.
4. The method as defined in claims 1 to 3,
wherein
the data content of the non-volatile storing means
is, upon request by an external electronic data
processing device, read thereinto over the data
interface of the communications network.
5. The method as defined in claims 1 to 4,
wherein
the trigger event is formed from a logic or time-
related concatenation of the parameterizable
attributes.
6. The method as defined in claims 1 to 5,
wherein
the data bus is a CAN bus and the data interface is
a serial interface or a modem interface.
7. The method as defined in claim 7,
wherein
the modem interface is a mobile wireless interface
based on the standards of SMS, GSM or GPRS.
8. The method as defined in claim 1 or 5,
wherein

the parameterizable attributes are CAN identifier, error bits, error codes or selected travel data of the motor vehicle.

5 9. The method as defined in claim 1,
 wherein
 several trigger events are defined and monitored.

10 10. The method as defined in claims 1 to 9,
 wherein
 after occurrence of a trigger event, a notification
 to an external data processing device concerning the
 occurrence of the event is effected.

15 11. The method as defined in claim 10,
 wherein
 the data content of the non-volatile storing means
 is, after sending the notification, read into an
 external electronic data processing device at the
20 request thereof.